

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/785,462

Applicant(s)

JONES ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Raymond J. Bayerl

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to papers filed 22 December 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 8 - 9, 12 - 13, 16 - 23, all other claims canceled.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

RAYMOND J. BAYERL
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2173

5 March 2007

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1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Wolfe on 5 March 2007.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

Claims 1 – 5, 24 – 26 have been canceled.

4. These claims were drawn to inventions not elected with traverse, where the restriction requirement was made final in the office action mailed 2 February 2005.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Upon initially taking the amended application, while having previously indicated as allowable independent claims 8, 9, 12, 13, 16, 17, drawn to a dealership communications interface, it appeared that the remaining independent claims 18, 20, 22 still read upon the main reference Kerkinni (US #2002/0,107,833 A1), as was relied upon in the previous office action. The phrase "means to display the plurality of display regions on a display device" as "a graphical user interface" (claim 18 quoted as exemplary) might still be interpreted as meaning that the separate lease terms as seen in Kerkinni's vehicle fleet arrangement can be viewed in time sequence.

However, and upon further consideration of applicant's record, it becomes clear that the "graphical user interface" means one in which a concurrent display from plural

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"lease term" items must occur. See, for example, applicant's response of 19 June 2006, page 13.

Applicant's representative Mr. Wolfe was in the process of attempting to reach the applicant to point out the potential difficulty, and the assistance provided there is appreciated, even though it is now seen by the Office that the claims can be allowed as they are.

During a final and updating search of the prior art, the Examiner noted, as with claims to the invention as seen in claim 8 and others like it, that Reichwein et al. (US #2001/0,053,983 A1) teaches an automotive information management arrangement that handles such matters as work orders for repairs. However, unlike the present claims, Reichwein et al. do not present an operator interface having the particular regions as called out in the claims, and further do not concern themselves with lease terms.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Raymond J. Bayerl, whose telephone number is (571) 272-4045. The Examiner can normally be reached on M – Th from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM ET.

8. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid, can be reached at 571-272-4063. All patent application

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related correspondence transmitted by FAX **must be directed** to the central FAX number (571) 273-8300.

9. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application of proceeding should be directed to the receptionist, whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.



RAYMOND J. BAYERL
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2173

5 March 2007